

Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED POSS DUPE

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71

ACTION EB-05

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TO USDOC WASHDC

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UNCLAS JIDDA 3825

FOR: STRAUSS LEON FROM ECON COUNSELOR BIRD

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: BEXP, SA

SUBJ: DOMESTIC SAUDI SATELLITE; HUGHES SATELLITE CORP.

1. REQUEST QUERY HUGHES SATELLITE AS FOLLOW-UP TO JUNE AND JULY EFFORTS REGARDING EVENTUAL PROGRAM FOR MUCH-NEEDED DOMESTIC SATELLITE COMMUNICATIONS SYSTEM FOR SAUDI ARABIA. IN PARTICULAR WOULD BE INTERESTED TO KNOW IF THEY ARE PREPARED TO MAKE LOW-KEY PRESENTATION OF CONCEPT TO VARIOUS SAUDI OFFICIALS. NOTE THAT AHMAD ZAIDAN, FORMER DEPTUY MINISTER COMMUNICATIONS, WILL BE AT ITU CONFERENCE IN TORREMELINOS, SPAIN AND MEETING WITH US DELEGATE AND DIRECTOR OF DEPTSTATE OFFICE OF TELECOMMUNICATIONS THOMAS E. NELSON FROM MID-SEPTEMBER UNTIL END OF CONFERENCE. ANOTHER POSSIBLE BRIEFING WOULD BE OF HISHAM NAZER, HEAD OF CENTRAL PLANNING, WHO WILL BE MAKING SEVERAL APPEARANCES IN NEW YORK, SAN FRANCISCO AND LOS ANGELES AREAS IN LATTER PART OF SEPTEMBER.

2. WE HAVE CONFIRMED THAT LACK OF FULL UNDERSTANDING OF CONCEPT BY SAG OFFICIALS AND NEED FOR BROAD-BASED EFFORT ON THIS \$100 MILLION/\$200 MILLION POTENTIALLY KEY INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECT REMAINS STUMBLING BLOCK. DID HUGHES MAKE ITS SCHEDULED PRESENTATION ON ARAB SATELLITE AT LEAGUE MEETING HELD MID-AUGUST IN ALEXANDRIA?
THACHER

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